

~~SECRET~~

HW: D-1/5a

March 17, 1959

MACMILLAN TALKS  
Washington, March 19-23, 1959

Recognition of the "German Democratic  
Republic"  
(Position Paper)

An earlier version of this paper, circulated as D-1/5, was drafted by GER - Mr. McKiernan and cleared by EUR - Mr. Kohler; GER - Mr. Vidgerman; BNA - Mr. Swihart; EE - Mr. McSweeney and GPA - Mr. Lampson. The attached paper replaces D-1/5, which should be destroyed.

This paper reflects the refinements made in D-1/5 at an interbureau meeting in the Acting Secretary's office on March 16.

It is circulated for your information.

Alan G. James  
S/S-RO  
Room 5274, Ext. 3415



~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL  
OF CLASSIFIED ATTACHMENTS

7/18/75, k

Recognition of the "German Democratic Republic"

Anticipated British Position

Macmillan may raise the subject of the Western Powers' attitude towards the East German Communist regime (the GDR). Specifically he may point out that the GDR will be able to exert pressure on our access to Berlin as long as we maintain our position there and that, at some point, we may have to decide between defending our position by force, at the risk of general war, or of recognizing the GDR. He may also point out that the Soviet position that the GDR must be recognized as a "fact of life" appears to be gaining some ground.

Recommended United States Position

We do not believe that there has yet been any change in the situation which would warrant a change in our attitude toward the GDR. The reasons why we have not recognized the GDR in the past still appear to us to be valid. These are the following: The GDR is not a separate national entity. Recognition of the GDR could perpetuate the division of Germany and would mean abandoning the East German population to Communism. Recognition of the GDR, without other arrangements having first been made, would call into question the continuing validity of our rights of access to Berlin which rest on our agreement with the USSR as the responsible international authority in Eastern Germany. Recognition would also enable the Communists to intensify their harassment of Berlin. The GDR does not represent the East German people and its recognition would be a mockery of the purposes of World War II and the Allied occupation of Germany. Finally, recognition of the GDR would seriously strain our relations with the German Federal Republic.



DECLASSIFIED

Authority MR84-320 #4

By bc NLE Date 7/10/85

~~SECRET~~